Pay disparity among Group 'B' Officers of various Ministries/Departments

*306. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Sixth Pay Commission has not looked into just demand of Group 'B' Officers of Information and Broadcasting (I&B) Ministry of granting them Group 'A' scale after completion of four years of service;

(b) whether it is also a fact that officers for the Railways, Accounts, Central Secretariat Service (CSS), Central Secretariat Stenographers Service (CSSS), Delhi, Andaman and Nicobar Islands Civil Service (DANICS) and Delhi, Andaman and Nicobar Islands Police Service (DANIPS) have been given better deal; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to improve career prospects of Group 'B' Officers of I&B Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (c) *Vide* para 7.22.4 of its Report, Sixth Central Pay Commission recommended that posts of Indian Information Service Group 'B' of Ministry of Information & Broadcasting which were in the pre-revised scales of Rs.5500-9000 and Rs.6500-10500 will come to lie in the same pay scale on account of restructuring of pay scales and functionally also they were similar. Therefore, these posts should be merged. This recommendation of the Pay Commission regarding Group 'B' posts in Ministry of Information & Broadcasting has been accepted. For officers in the Railways, Accounts, Central Secretariat Service, Central Secretariat Stenographer Service, Delhi, Andaman and Nicobar Islands Civil Service, Delhi and Andaman and Nicobar Islands Police Service who were already in the pre-revised scale of Rs. 8000-13500, the Pay Commission recommended replacement pay band PB-2 with grade pay of Rs.5400, which was modified by Government to PB-3 with grade pay of Rs.5400.

Social obligations of private sector oil companies

*307. SHRI DARA SINGH:
SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the present contribution of producers in private sector oil Companies in meeting their social obligations; and

(b) whether Government has not made it obligatory by asking them to supply petroleum products to Government companies on Indian market prices before allowing them to export the same on a very high profit?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) Private sector oil companies do not come under the administrative control of this Ministry for this purpose and hence their contribution to social obligation is not monitored by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

(b) There is a surplus refining capacity in the country today. As against the total domestic consumption of petroleum products of 128.94 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) during 2007-08, the

country produced 149.89 MMT of refined petroleum products, with the private sector refineries contributing 40.92 MMT. Therefore, the surplus products have necessarily to be exported.

Scarcity of water

†*308. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI:
SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of scarcity of water in the country;

(b) if so, whether any initiative is being taken by Government for the distribution of water of Chenab, Kosi and Brahmaputra rivers under the international law; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) the UNESCO Water Portal states that water scarcity has been defined as a situation where water availability in a country or a region is below 1000 cubic metre per person per year. Considering the population of 2001 census, the per capita water availability in India works out to be 1820 Cubic Metre. The per capita water availability is declining because of population growth. The National Commission on Integrated Water Resources Development has estimated that by the year 2050, when the population is expected to stabilize, the per capita water availability would be 1140 Cubic Metre. However, the per capita water availability varies considerably from one basin to another.

(b) and (c) Distribution of Chenab waters is governed by the provisions of Indus Waters Treaty 1960 between India and Pakistan. Under the Treaty, India is under obligation to let flow all the Chenab waters and not permit any interference with these waters, except for uses, as specified in the Treaty. A bilateral agreement on Kosi Barrage was signed between the Governments of India and Nepal in 1954, which was later revised in December 1966. There is no bilateral agreement with China for distribution of waters of Brahmaputra river. However, a Joint Expert Level Mechanism (ELM) has been set up under cooperation with China for cooperation for the supply of flood season hydrological data by China on river Brahmaputra.

Job loss due to economic crisis

*309. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a likelihood that lakhs of employees may have to lose their jobs in the near future in view of the global economic crisis;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Unlike the developed countries where job losses have been reported due to the global financial crisis, the impact has been limited in India as a large proportion of population is employed in the agriculture sector which has not been affected by the crisis.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.